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Finance Committee Minutes 04-23-2003

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

7:30 PM O'Neill room, community safety building

4/23/03

ATTENDEES:

Janowitz*	Feinleib	O'Riordan*	O'Neill	Mahoney*
DeCoursey*	Connors*	Simmons*	Morrisette	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst	Ronan*	
Piandes	Franclemont*	Jones*	Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*	Tosi	Kneeland*

DuBois* Howard* Fanning* Tosi Kneeland*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: Permanent Town Building Committee Chair John Cole, Selectman Charlie Lyons, Paul Bayer, Robin Schoenthaler

MINUTES of 4/16/03 accepted as printed. Unanimous.

GENERAL: The impact of the House Ways & Means budget on Arlington is an additional \$100,000 reduction in state aid and the elimination of the revised funding categories proposed by the Governor. Tosti to revise the revenue and budget projections accordingly by Saturday.

ARTICLE 74 BORROWING CAP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECTS: Cole stated that state reimbursement for Thompson & Stratton will be long delayed since projects addressing overcrowding or racial imbalance have priority. In response to questions, he said that rebuilding is preferable to renovation because these buildings are poorly built and unforeseeable costs will be likely to arise. They also are energy inefficient and have handicap-accessibility problems. If the reimbursement formula were to be revised as has been proposed to favor renovation by 5% more than at present, it still would be unattractive for these schools. The PTBC does not need additional borrowing now. Cole was requested to tell this to the Treasurer.

ARTICLE 71 DALLIN SCHOOL: Cole expects to have an independent cost estimate based on 95% plans at the next PTBC meeting. He expects \$11 million to \$12 million for construction. Construction costs have stopped increasing. He said that if the project proceeds, the school would be open in 9/05. Lyons urged the Finance Committee to reconsider its previous vote to delay the Dallin project. He stated that every project that, since the 1940s, has been approved by the state for reimbursement (as Peirce and Dallin have been) has received the funds. He is concerned that delay would stall the school renovation project that would break faith with the debt exclusion voters. Tosti provided tables showing how BANs could be used to fund Dallin without increasing the exempt tax burden assuming reimbursement becomes available for both schools in FY09, three years after completion of Dallin. He pointed out that there would be no FY04 impact. In discussion, Finance Committee members noted the uncertainty surrounding reimbursement, the devaluation associated with long-delayed reimbursement, the effect of building a school while reducing education programs, the limited effect of a one-year delay, as well as the urgent need for maintenance of the existing building. VOTE to reconsider the no action vote of 3/17 failed 2-12.

ARTICLE 72 HARDY SCHOOL: Cole said that the noise issue is in mediation. He has \$20,000 available. This may not be enough. VOTED to recommend an appropriation but to leave the amount blank until a settlement is reached; if no settlement to substitute a no action vote. Unanimous.

ARTICLE 73 HEALTH CARE TRUST FUND: Tosti proposed putting the amount freed up from the non-contributory pension payments towards this fund again this year but to use it to rebuild the Stabilization Fund during the next few years. VOTED to appropriate \$180343 to the Health Care Trust Fund. Unanimous.

ARTICLE 78 TRANSFER OF CEMETERY FUNDS: No funds are available. VOTED no action. Unanimous.

ARTICLE 75, 76: Finance Committee will not report.

COMMITTEE: Meetings are planned for 4/26 Saturday 8:30AM, 4/30, 5/3 Saturday 8:30AM. . Tosti is planning to have the Finance Committee Report ready for Town Meeting on 5/7.

RESERVE FUND BALANCE \$300,000

Peter B. Howard
Secretary

Budget & Article Action Summary

Bud #	Date presented	Date of vote	\$	Vote	Art#	Date presented	Date of vote	\$	Vote/ assigned to
1					11	2/19	2/19	bylaw chng	11-2
2					13	2/3	2/3	support	
3					14	2/19		no report	
4					17	2/19		no report	
5					20	2/11	2/11	no report	Unanimous
6					21	2/11	2/11	no report	Unanimous
7					23				Foskett
8					24				
9					25	2/19		no report	
10					26	3/26			
11					27	3/26	3/26	no action	Unanimous
12					30	2/26		info request	
13					31	2/26		info request	
14					32	2/19		no report	
15					33	2/3	postponed		
16					34	2/3	postponed		
17a					37				
17b					38				
17c					39				
17d					41	2/5	info req'd		
17e					42	2/5	info req'd		
17f					43	2/5	info req'd		
19	4/16				44	3/26	3/26	favorbl act	Unanimous
20					45	3/26	3/26	no report	Unanimous
21a					46	3/26	3/26	no report	Unanimous
21b					47	3/26	3/26	no report	Unanimous
21c					48	3/26	3/26	no report	Unanimous
21d	4/2				49	3/26	3/26	no report	Unanimous
22					50	3/26	3/26	no report	Unanimous
23					51	3/26	3/26	no report	Unanimous
24					52	3/26			
25					53	3/26, 4/14	4/14	favor action	Unanimous
26					55	3/26			Du Bois
WS					56	3/31	3/31	67 47 373	Unanimous
Rec	3/5				57	3/26	3/26	no action	Unanimous
Rnk					59	3/31, 4/14			DeCoursey
COA					60	2/19, 26 3/5 HumRt 3/26 CPC 3/26 Disabl	2/19, 26 3/5 3/26 3/26	10% reduct 4500 0 0	Unanimous Unanimous Unanimous Unanimous
YS					61	2/19	2/19	no action	Unanimous
					63A	2/26, 3/26	2/19	2000	8-7
					63B	2/26, 3/26	2/19	5667	14-1
					63C	3/26			
					63D	2/26	2/19	0	Unanimous
					63E	2/26	2/19	3000	12-2

